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The Abo Group is a full service architectural firm providing design, project management, construction documentation and administration, historic preservation, space planning, master planning and facility assessments. Earning wide recognition for sustainable design, the firm incorporates the highest possible energy efficiency technologies in their designs.

For more than 20 years, The Abo Group has designed highly specialized laboratories to meet LEED "Gold" standards at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, CO. In 1999, the Thermal Test Facility at NREL won the ASHRAE Award of Excellence for Energy Efficient Design. The firm has also completed a Master Plan for the ultimate buildout of NREL's South Table Mountain Campus in Golden.

I extend my deepest congratulations to The Abo Group for this well-deserved honor from the West Chamber of Commerce.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT GARCIA

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a good friend and colleague, Mr. Robert Garcia, better known as "Bobby," who passed away on January 25, 2017. Bobby was an influential leader and trailblazer in New York, first serving the people of the South Bronx as a representative in the New York State Assembly and as the first Puerto Rican in the New York State Senate. His decade-long career in the U.S. House of Representatives began when he was elected to Congress in a special election on February 14, 1978 on the Republican and Liberal tickets to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Congressman Herman Badillo. He took his seat on February 21, 1978 as a Democrat.

Bobby played an instrumental role in several local, national, and international initiatives and served New York for more than 25 years. His legacy of public service will not be forgotten.

Bobby was born in the Bronx in 1933 to Puerto Rican parents. His dedication to serving his country was demonstrated at a young age when he served overseas during the Korean War in the U.S. Army's Third Infantry, earning two Bronze stars. He attended college under the GI Bill, and then began a career in public service.

Bobby's political career is highlighted by his dedication to fight against inequality, intolerance and injustice. He worked on issues such as immigration reform, voting rights, Puerto Rico, economic opportunities, and U.S. policy towards Central America. Representing the South Bronx, Bobby is remembered as a significant reformer and a leader for those whose voices were too often lost. While in Congress, Bobby served on the Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee. He also sat on the Post Office and Civil Service Committee, where he championed the Garcia Amendment to the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 to ensure the recruitment of minorities for the civil service.

During his time in Congress, Bobby was a co-founder of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, which allowed the Hispanic community to gain national recognition in Congress and helped develop young Latinos to be the next generation of leaders in America. In addition, he co-sponsored the bill establishing a national holiday to commemorate the life of civil rights hero Martin Luther King, Jr.

Bobby also advocated to transform the South Bronx district through federal funding, jobs and projects. He co-authored the Kemp-Garcia Enterprise Free Zone Bill as an initiative to attract businesses to areas faced with severe depression, unemployment, and poverty.

Bobby also had a profound respect for and a deep understanding of religious and spiritual development for others, and was active in several Christian organizations.

Bobby received numerous awards and recognition for his pioneering work and was an outstanding citizen, a transformational leader in New York, and an important voice for the Hispanic community. Garcia was a pioneer and a legend in the Latino community, and those that knew him will never forget him. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring our former colleague, Robert Garcia, for his service, leadership, and accomplishments. He will be greatly missed.

CONGRATULATING DONNA GORITY ON RECEIVING THE 2017 RESPECTED CITIZEN AWARD

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Donna GORITY on receiving the Central Blair Recreation and Park Commission's (CBRC) Respected Citizen Award for 2017.

This is not the first time I have had the honor to congratulate Mrs. GORITY. I had the privilege of congratulating her on her retirement in 2012 for 28 accomplished years in public office. Mrs. GORITY, the first female member of the Blair County Board of Commissioners, is well known in central Pennsylvania for her extensive track record of dedicated service, advocating strongly for children and human services, and being a loud voice for the citizens of Blair County on all community issues.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that Donna, in her usual manner, has not slowed down. In fact, Mike Hofer, the Executive Director of the CBRC, said that it is possible Donna may be busier now since before her retirement in 2012. This example set by Donna is one we all should strive for. Her willingness to serve her community and Pennsylvania, especially as a private citizen, sets her apart as an outstanding individual and I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

Mrs. GORITY will be honored February 25, 2017 with the Respected Citizen Award by the Central Blair Recreation and Park Commission at the 8th Annual Community Classic Dinner and Auction at the Bavarian Hall in Altoona. I congratulate Donna and her family on this recognition, and thank her for her extraordinary contributions to the community. I ask that all of

my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Donna for this achievement and wishing her nothing but continued success.

EMAIL PRIVACY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support to H.R. 387, the Email Privacy Act.

Enacting the amendments outlined in this bill will provide a much needed update to the Electronic Communication Privacy Act of 1986 (ECPA). ECPA paved the way for protecting the rapidly advancing field of electronic communications. Although this law made headway in assuring the privacy of the telecommunications of Americans, electronic communications have far outpaced the current regulation.

The provisions of the Email Privacy Act reaffirm the rights granted Americans by the Fourth Amendment. Citizens should not be subjected to unlawful search and seizure of their private property. The communications of Americans are personal and private and must be treated as such by our government. H.R. 387, however, recognizes that circumstances may require law enforcement to move quickly and require access to electronic communications. Preserving law enforcement's ability to preserve records, to delay notification to subscribers that a warrant is out for their data, and by requiring timely responses to warrants reflects the security concerns expressed during the Judiciary Committee markup. Ensuring law enforcement has probable cause in order to access stored email, texts, and photos, while also providing the above exceptions and flexibility to the rule balancing the needs of law enforcement and public safety with the right to individual privacy.

Calls for reform have come from both sides of the aisle. Upholding the Fourth Amendment is not a partisan issue and I am overjoyed to see my colleagues from both parties standing by this bill. Failing to pass the Email Privacy Act endangers the principal values of our Republic. Our constituents have entrusted us, not only as their Representatives, but as defenders of the Constitution and the rights of all Americans.

The passage of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act will engender confidence in both law enforcement and privacy laws as Americans will know their emails will only be accessed if there is cause. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote Yes on the resolution.

RECOGNIZING YURI HRESHCHYSHYN FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM IN THE CITY OF BUFFALO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. Yuri Hreshchysyn,